

REMARKS

Before this amendment, claims 3-16, 16-36, and 38-42 were pending in the application. The Office allowed claims 3-13, and rejected claims 14-15 and 34-35. In addition, the Office objected to claims 16, 1833, 36, and 38-42 as depending on rejected base claims. The Office Action indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims, the Applicant with this paper cancels and amends the claims without prejudice and seeks to pursue the allowed and allowable (objected to) claims in this application. More specifically, the Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 15-16 and 35, and amends claims 14 (to add the limitations of claims 15 and 16), 18, 34 (to add the limitations of claim 35), and 36. The Applicant does not make the amendment for reasons related to any of the cited references. Because of the amendments to add limitations of the indicated claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections and objections of the claims have been overcome, and that the pending claims are in allowable condition.

The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the rejected and/or other claims in follow-on and/or other applications and to present arguments with respect to such claims in such applications. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that it does not amend or reject the claims because of the rejections over the cited references; rather, the Applicant merely seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent.


In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in allowable condition. Consequently, favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Furthermore, the Applicant believes that no other fees are due in connection with this paper. Should any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, however, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-3813/SILA:099.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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